

Communal clashes in Tonk and Malpura, Rajasthan

2523. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether communal clashes continued in Tonk and Malpura areas of Rajasthan for days together in July 2000; and
- (b) if so, the reasons for the violence and the number of lives lost and action proposed to contain such clashes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Communal incidents occurred in Tonk and Malpura areas of Rajasthan on 10th July and 12 July, 2000. The immediate cause of the clashes was the killing of one Kailash Male, by un-identified assailants on 10.7.2000. 12 persons were killed and 8 were injured from both communities in the incidents. As per the Constitutional provisions 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects but the Central Government is assisting them in various ways. Curfew was imposed in Malpura and Tonk and 80 persons were arrested in connection with these incidents. Three Coys of Rapid Action Force with adequate State Police/Armed Police personnel were deployed at Malpura, Tonk and other affected areas. Police pickets have been posted in sensitive areas and patrolling is being carried out. The situation is under control.

Digging of Christian Graveyards

†2524. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) what is Government's reaction towards the newsitem published in the 'Punjab Kesari' dated the 24th June, 2000 under the caption "Esai Kabristan main ghus kar 45 kabrain khod deen"; and
- (b) the action taken by Government in this regard?

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

[17 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Constitution of India. The registration, investigation and detection of crime as well as the prevention of crime are primarily the responsibilities of the State Governments.

The Superintendent of Police Rajmundry (East Godavari) District visited the place and held a meeting with Christian elders to assuage their feelings and assured them of appropriate action against the culprits.

Unilateral ceasefire by Hizbul Mujahideen

2525. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention had been drawn to the announcement made by the Hizbul Mujahideen, Pro-Pakistani militant outfit, for a unilateral ceasefire in Jammu and Kashmir;
- (b) if so, what is Government's reaction in regard thereto; and
- (c) whether Government propose to invite them for dialogue for solution of the Kashmir problem and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Government had made initial contacts with Hizbul-Mujahideen leadership, in order to discuss the modalities for holding dialogue for restoration of peace in J&K. Hizbul-Mujahideen has however since withdrawn the cease-fire. The Government will consider any move of talks with all those in Kashmir who eschew the path of terror and violence. However Government would continue its battle against all those who continue to stick to the path of terrorism.